3. Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment (now renamed as Indian Council of Overseas Employment)

This has been established as a Society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and was registered on 30th July, 2008.

4. Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK)

Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK), an electronic platform will connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of Disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub-national levels in India. The network will serve as a strategic 'virtual think tank'. The outcome targeted will be the germination of ideas on development, identification of the key elements in addressing the challenges to development and articulating and mapping out solution through innovation and technological interventions.

5. PIO/NRI University

The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

Safety of Indian Workers Abroad

634. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into agreements with foreign countries to protect the life and employment of Indians working there;

(b) if so, the number of countries with which our country has made mutual agreement in this regard;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The protection and welfare of emigrant workers requires bilateral cooperation. India had signed Labour Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s. The Ministry, after its creation in 2004, has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with all the major receiving Countries for ensuring the safety and welfare of our emigrant workers. MoUs have been signed with DAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009.

The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoU.

Details of Indian in Foreign Countries

635. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: